

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Compartment: 1
County: Martin

Tract: 12
Section: 26 & 35

Township: 5N

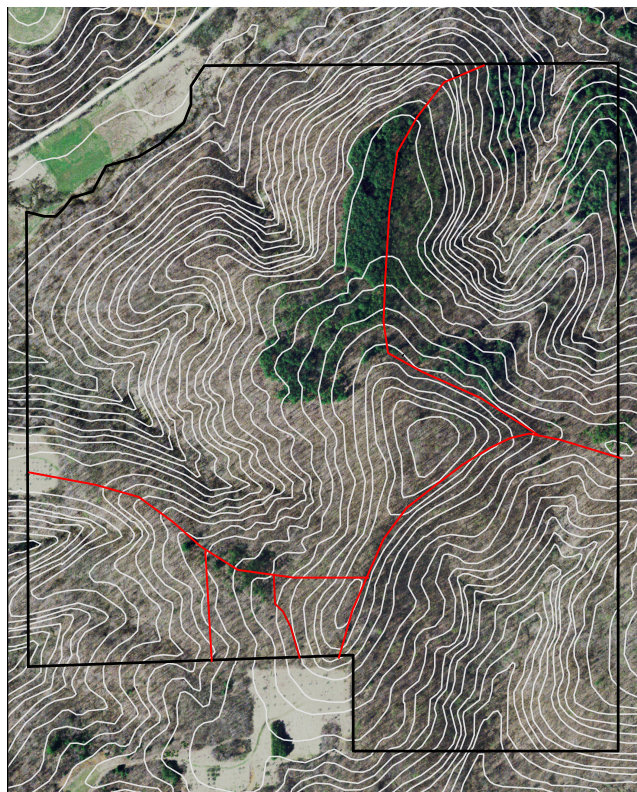
Range: 3W

FORESTER'S NARRATIVE

By: Jeremy Herman

ROADS AND BOUNDARIES:

This tract is located in the South ½, Sec 26, T 5N, R 3W and N½ NW¼ NE¼, Sec 35, T 5N, R 3W. The tract is made up of 174 acres of rolling hills and steep topography. The tract is completely surrounded by Padanaram, a private landowner. There is no access to the tract unless an easement is established through Padanaram's property. Options for easements would be to come in from Valley Road and enter the tract through the northwest corner or follow the ridge top in on the middle of the eastern border where there is an existing ATV trail. The boundaries between the tract and Padanaram can be determined by the timber changes and land use. Padanaram has harvested their property pretty heavy while the timber on the state owned tract is mainly large saw timber. The northwest corner is determined by the tributary creek of Sulpher Creek. There were remnants of fence throughout the tract but they do not necessarily run on the boundary line. The whole tract has been flagged but no known corners were found.

**TRACT DESCRIPTION:**

This tract is made up mainly of large hardwood saw timber and Eastern white pine. There is a ridge top in the middle of the tract but it steeply slopes on all sides except for to the east where it continues off of the tract. There is some very nice large, 25"+ DBH, white and red oak in this tract. There are numerous ATV trails that span throughout the tract (red on map). Also, evidence of old skid roads was found mainly on the western side. They are all marked on the inventory map. Pine plantations have been established in most of the flat areas on the main ridge top. Oak regeneration is present throughout the tract but heavier in some areas. This regeneration is shown on the inventory map as well. In a ravine on the western side there are two PVC pipes coming out of a spring. One has no water flow because it is broken and clogged but the other has a valve and water is flowing out of it and down the intermittent creek bed. It appears this was a gravity well water system used to pipe spring water to homes at Padanaram. There is about 14 acres of Eastern white pine that could be clear cut because of their size and the potential for hardwood release. The area of mixed pine is stagnated and could benefit from a thinning. There are also plenty of hardwoods in the understory that could be released. The average diameter of the pines is about 12-13 inches.

There were a total of 1,280,200 board feet of saw timber (7,357 bf/ac) in this tract; 494,710 board feet of which was harvestable saw timber (2,843 bf/ac) and 785,490 board feet of saw timber leave (4,514 bf/ac). The most common species found were White, red, and black oak, bitternut and shagbark hickory, sugar maple, eastern white pine, and yellow poplar.

The Oak/Hickory timber type was the largest timber type composing of 92 acres and 53 percent of the tract acreage. There were a total of 738,570 board feet of saw timber (8,028 bf/ac) in this timber type; 242,250 board feet of which was harvestable saw timber (2,633 bf/ac) and 496,320 board feet of saw timber leave (5,395 bf/ac). White, black, and northern red oak, bitternut and shagbark hickory, and yellow poplar were the most common species in this timber type.

The Mixed Hardwoods timber type was the second most common timber type composing of 60 acres and 34 percent of the tract acreage. There were a total of 308,110 board feet of saw timber (5,135 bf/ac) in this timber type; 114,470 board feet of which was harvestable saw timber (1,908 bf/ac) and 193,640 board feet of saw timber leave (3,227 bf/ac). American sycamore, American beech, bitternut hickory, eastern white pine, sassafras, and yellow poplar were the most common species in this timber type.

The Eastern White Pine timber type composed of 14 acres and 8 percent of the tract acreage. There were a total of 196,040 board feet of saw timber (14,003 bf/ac) in this timber type; 114,090 board feet of which was harvestable saw timber (8,149 bf/ac) and 81,950 board feet of saw timber leave (5,854 bf/ac). Black oak, eastern white pine, and yellow poplar were the most common species in this timber type.

The Pine timber type composed of 8 acres and 5 percent of the tract acreage. The species of pine found here was Short Leaf Pine. There were a total of 37,480 board feet of saw timber (4,685 bf/ac) in this timber type; 23,900 board feet of which was harvestable saw timber (2,988 bf/ac) and 13,580 board feet of saw timber leave (1,698 bf/ac).

SOILS:

The main soil type, approximately 65 percent for this tract, is a Wellston-Tipsaw-Adyeville complex. Slopes typically associated with this soil type include 18-70 percent slopes and are highly erodible. The remainder forty percent of this tract is contains slopes from 1 to 18 percent. The site index for Yellow Poplar is 90 on average for this tract.

HISTORY:

The USDA Forest Service acquired 26 acres of this tract on February 24, 1938 for \$550.00. An additional purchase of 114.37 acres on April 7, 1941 for a sum of \$575.00 added to the tract area. These two pieces along with other property the Forest Service had is what now makes up Compartment 1 Tract 12. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources acquired the land from the USDA Forest Service on August 19, 1985. The tract was walked through by Janet Eger on October 25, 1982. Since then, there has been no work done on this tract until this inventory.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

Being a stand of mature timber, Compartment 1 Tract 12 is aesthetically pleasing. Hiking under the continuous canopy is very pleasant. There are areas of thick cover for the wildlife as well as an abundance of food from the present trees. Wildlife was seen on every occasion. There are no fishing opportunities in this tract. Hunting, wildlife viewing, trapping, photography, and mushroom picking are all recreational activities that could be done on this tract. Common species include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, red and gray fox, raccoon, squirrels, rabbits, song birds, snakes, amphibians, and reptiles.

Structural wildlife habitat in the form of snag trees and cavity trees was monitored during the inventory. The tract was deficient in large snags (19''+ DBH) and in cavity trees in all size classes. Snags will be created during future T.S.I operations to bring the total up to optimal levels. The cavity tree estimate is most likely very low due to the difficulty in finding cavities high in the tree.

WATERSHED:

The entire tract drains into tributaries of Sulpher Creek. These tributary creeks enter Sulpher Creek in Sec. 27 & 34, T 5N R 3W. Sulpher Creek then enters Indian Creek in Sec. 21, T 4N, R 3W. Indian Creek then enters the East Fork of the White River in Sec. 5, T 3N, R 3W.

SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

By: Jeremy Herman

The Eastern White Pine timber type is made up mostly of large saw timber sized Eastern White Pine. There are good hardwoods in the understory that are waiting to be released. A regeneration opening in this area would be beneficial to the hardwoods. The white pine has done its job and is ready to be taken out. The areas of mixed pine are stagnated. This area would benefit from a commercial thinning or T.S.I. operation. It also has an adequate amount of hardwoods in the understory. Grape vine work could be done in both the Eastern White Pine and the Pine timber type. The Mixed Hardwoods timber type should have a crop tree release harvest. This will allow the best trees to grow and remove the lower quality stems. The Oak/Hickory timber type is a good area to set up a shelterwood. There is pretty good regeneration on the forest floor that would benefit from some mid-story removal. A lot of the trees in the Oak/Hickory timber type are in the 20+ diameter range. Portions of the oak/Hickory type not appropriate for a shelterwood will be marked as single tree selection.

There was fair to good oak regeneration throughout the entire tract. Many of these seedlings were waist high and should respond to release. The tract as a whole could benefit from T.S.I.

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